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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 2, AMEND claims 1, 6 and 7 and ADD new claim 8, in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An electronic document processing system including a plurality of electronic document processors connected to each other by a network,

wherein each of said electronic document processors comprising:

reception means for receiving an electronic document transmitted from another of said electronic document processors;

processing means for carrying out predetermined processing on said electronic document received by said reception means;

first storage means for generating a log of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means, and storing said log in a predetermined resource;

derivative electronic document generation means for generating a derivative electronic document which is a new electronic document derived from said electronic document, according to a result of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means;

second storage means for storing information indicating a correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document in a predetermined resource, when said derivative electronic document is generated by said derivative electronic document generation means; and

transmission means for transmitting said electronic document processed by said processing means and said derivative electronic document generated by said derivative electronic document generation means to a next one of said electronic document processors;

tracking request entry means for receiving a tracking request for tracking a predetermined electronic document; and

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status display means for obtaining a log corresponding to said predetermined electronic document from said predetermined resource, and displaying information indicating a present status of said predetermined electronic document, when said tracking request for tracking said predetermined electronic document is made by said tracking request entry means,

wherein said status display means displays a status of said derivative electronic document correlated with said electronic document of which said tracking request was made, by also referring to said information indicating said correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) An electronic document processing system according to claim 1, wherein when a plurality of derivative electronic documents to be generated contain a common content, said derivative electronic document generation means combines said plurality of derivative electronic documents into a single derivative electronic document.

4. (original) An electronic document processing system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic document contains first access limiting information for limiting access of users to said electronic document,

said each electronic document processor including access permitting means responsive to a request of access to said electronic document, for permitting only an authorized user to gain said access to said electronic document, through comparison with rights of users and said first access limiting information; and

wherein said log contains second access limiting information for limiting access of users to said log,

said access permitting means being responsive to a request of access to said log, for permitting only an authorized user to gain said access to said log, through comparison with said rights of said users and said second access limiting information.

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5. (original) An electronic document processing system according to claim 2, wherein said log has information indicating a status of a business process written therein, said business process being started by reception of said electronic document,

said status display means also displaying information indicating said status of said business process as status information.

6. (currently amended) An electronic document processor connected to other electronic document processors via a network, for transmission and reception of electronic documents therebetween,

the electronic document processor comprising:

reception means for receiving an electronic document transmitted from another of said electronic document processors;

processing means for carrying out predetermined processing on said electronic document received by said reception means;

first storage means for generating a log of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means, and storing said log in a predetermined resource;

derivative electronic document generation means for generating a derivative electronic document which is a new electronic document derived from said electronic document, according to a result of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means;

second storage means for storing information indicating a correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document in a predetermined resource, when said derivative electronic document is generated by said derivative electronic document generation means; and

transmission means for transmitting said electronic document processed by said processing means and said derivative electronic document generated by said derivative electronic document generation means to a next one of said electronic document processors;

tracking request entry means for receiving a tracking request for tracking a predetermined electronic document; and

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status display means for obtaining a log corresponding to said predetermined electronic document from said predetermined resource, and displaying information indicating a present status of said predetermined electronic document, when said tracking request for tracking said predetermined electronic document is made by said tracking request entry means,

wherein said status display means displays a status of said derivative electronic document correlated with said electronic document of which said tracking request was made, by also referring to said information indicating said correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document.

7. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium which stores a program for an electronic computer connected to other electronic document processors via a network, for transmission and reception of electronic documents therebetween,

said program causing said computer to function as:

reception means for receiving an electronic document transmitted from another of said electronic document processors;

processing means for carrying out predetermined processing on said electronic document received by said reception means;

first storage means for generating a log of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means, and storing said log in a predetermined resource;

derivative electronic document generation means for generating a derivative electronic document which is a new electronic document derived from said electronic document, according to a result of said predetermined processing carried out by said processing means;

second storage means for storing information indicating a correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document in a predetermined resource, when said derivative electronic document is generated by said derivative electronic document generation means; and

transmission means for transmitting said electronic document processed by said processing means and said derivative electronic document generated by said derivative electronic document generation means to a next one of said electronic document processors;

tracking request entry means for receiving a tracking request for tracking a predetermined electronic document; and

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status display means for obtaining a log corresponding to said predetermined electronic document from said predetermined resource, and displaying information indicating a present status of said predetermined electronic document, when said tracking request for tracking said predetermined electronic document is made by said tracking request entry means,

wherein said status display means displays a status of said derivative electronic document correlated with said electronic document of which said tracking request was made, by also referring to said information indicating said correlation between said electronic document and said derivative electronic document.

8. (new) An electronic document processor connected to other electronic document processors via a network, comprising:

a reception unit which receives an electronic document transmitted from another of the electronic document processors;

a processor which carries out processing on the electronic document received by the reception unit;

a first storage unit which generates a log of the processing carried out by the processor, and stores the log in a resource;

a derivative electronic document generator which generates a derivative electronic document including a new electronic document derived from the electronic document, according to a result of the processing carried out by the processor;

a second storage unit which stores information indicating a correlation between the electronic document and the derivative electronic document in a resource, when the derivative electronic document is generated by the derivative electronic document generator;

a transmission unit which transmits the electronic document processed by the processor and the derivative electronic document generated by the derivative electronic document generator to a next one of the electronic document processors;

a tracking request entry unit which receives a tracking request for tracking an electronic document; and

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a status display which obtains a log corresponding to the electronic document from the resource, and displays information indicating a present status of the electronic document, when the tracking request for tracking the electronic document is made by the tracking request entry unit,

wherein the status display displays a status of the derivative electronic document correlated with the electronic document of which the tracking request was made, by also referring to the information indicating the correlation between the electronic document and the derivative electronic document.